

A Demoness 261

Chapter 261: Peerless Demon

Early in the morning, Jiang Hao looked at the notebook in front of him and sighed wearily.

After confirming twice that everything was in order, he put the items away.

He would let Hong Yuye take a look at the sealing technique later and only practice it if there were no issues.

Although he possessed the Universe in a Palm technique to seal the pearl, Dan Yuan's sealing technique was stronger.

He didn't know any other sealing techniques. So, it was a good idea to learn this one.

However, he needed to be careful when using it. It could easily expose his identity.

It could be useful if anyone in the gathering wanted someone captured, and he could use the Seven-Stars Technique to seal them. It would leave a good impression.

As for the curse technique, he would study it tonight.

It had been a long time since he last visited the Spirit Herb Garden. Starting today, he decided to get back to his routine.

He arrived in the courtyard and saw the beast sitting in front of the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower. It looked like it was deep in thought.

“What are you doing?” Jiang Hao asked as he watered the flower. “Master, my friends said that Lin Zhi might get expelled from the sect.”

“So?” Jiang Hao asked, putting away the bowl.

“I pulled some strings and let Lin Zhi stay back in the sect.” “How long can your “friends” make him stay?” Jiang Hao asked. “One year. The rest... Master, that is up to you.”

Jiang Hao chuckled. The spirit beast was truly bold and shameless.

As a Foundation Establishment Realm pet, it had gained some reputation at the Cliff of Broken Hearts

If Lin Zhi wasn’t investigated, then there would be no problem. However, if he was investigated and then found that Jiang Hao had let him stay, he might be in trouble.

“You don’t have to worry about that. Lin Zhi can stay as long as he wants. No one will expel him from the sect,” said Jiang Hao and left the courtyard.

“Master, did you help him?”

Jiang Hao did not answer the beast.

When he visited his master last time, Jiang Hao mentioned Lin Zhi’s situation in passing and asked for his help. Since Jiang Hao had contributed a lot to the branch, his master agreed without any hesitation.

To him, it was not a big deal to let an outer sect disciple stay in the sect.

Jiang Hao hadn’t told anyone about it, not even Lin Zhi. He didn’t want anyone to know that he had involved himself in the matter.

The spirit beast and Xiao Li were examples of what happened when he got too involved. Before, he only thought about guiding them and then releasing them to their own devices. However, now, he was constantly worried about them and wanted to make sure they could protect themselves before he set them free.

If they caused any trouble, it would be traced directly back to him. It was very troublesome.

“How is Chu Chuan doing?” Jiang Hao asked.

“He’s progressing quickly. He now says he wants to surpass Xiao Li,” said the spirit beast.

Jiang Hao realized that he should pay more attention to Xiao Li’s cultivation.

Perhaps Xiao Li would be a good guide for Chu Chuan. The spirit beast was mostly a bad influence on people.

Chu Chuan was not afraid of challenges, and Lin Zhi needed a mentor.

Xiao Li didn’t need to be taught anything for now.

Upon arriving at the Spirit Herb Garden, Jiang Hao asked Cheng Chou if he had any difficulties in his cultivation. Cheng Chou was glad that Jiang Hao had asked. He had many questions.

Jiang Hao patiently explained and cleared his doubts. It took the whole morning to finish explaining everything to Cheng Chou.

There was simply too much information. Cheng Chou noted them all down, so he could remember them better.

“In the future, I will explain things to you every one or two months, and you can jot them down in your notebook,” Jiang Hao said.

Cheng Chou was very grateful. He didn't know how, but he felt that Jiang Hao was even more knowledgeable than the seniors in the Golden Core Realm.

"By the way, how is Xiao Li doing?" Jiang Hao asked.

"Junior Sister Xiao Li is alright now. However, occasionally she is melancholic. I found her sitting alone under a tree last time. I try to sit with her when that happens."

Jiang Hao lowered his head. He wasn't good at comforting people. He relied on the spirit beast and Cheng Chou for something like that.

"By the way, after Xiao Li breaks through the sixth stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm, let her advance once every three months. That way, she can advance to the Foundation Establishment Realm next year."

Six years to reach the Foundation Establishment Realm was faster than normal but still within the realm of exceptional talent.

At night, Lin Zhi came out of his house and headed to the forest. This was where he often cultivated.

When he arrived, he didn't immediately start cultivating. Instead, he looked around. "Lord Beast?"

"I'm here." The beast appeared on a tree behind him. "Do you know that you're going to be expelled from the sect?"

Lin Zhi nodded sadly. He wanted to advance, but he simply couldn't.

However, he heard people say that he could stay for another year. He felt that it was useless. He didn't think he could advance to the next stage even after a year.

But he didn't want to leave. At the very least, he wanted to become a cultivator and a disciple.

“You don’t need to worry about that anymore. You can stay here as long as you like.”

“Really?” Lin Zhi couldn’t believe it. “But Lin MO and Zhao Qingxue said that I could only stay in the sect for another year!”

“Do you know who you’re talking to right now?” said the spirit beast as it held its head high. “You are still ignorant. In the future, you’ll understand what kind of peerless demon you’re talking to. I am a great demon beast. Are your friends experts? Can they do for you what I have done for you? Have I ever deceived you?”

Lin Zhi shook his head. He believed in the beast. Without the beast guiding him, he would have been in even more trouble.

Moreover, the beast had no reason to deceive him.

“Should I tell my friends about this?” Lin Zhi asked.

“You should learn to observe quietly, endure setbacks, bide your time, and wait for the day when you will make a name for yourself. I’ll help you succeed.”

Jiang Hao, who was observing from a distance, was speechless. The beast was truly shameless. It even declared itself a “peerless demon.”

If the beast somehow disclosed that Jiang Hao had helped him stay in the sect, it would be troublesome. That was the reason Jiang Hao had followed along.

Now he saw that he didn’t need to worry. The beast was busy blowing its own trumpet.

Lin Zhi’s physical condition had indeed improved a lot. The Star-Moon Lifeblood Refinement Technique had helped him.

Jiang Hao returned to his courtyard and took out his notebook. After learning the curse, it would be easier to cast it on Bai Ye during the night.

If he could defeat him in one fell swoop, that would be perfect!

Chapter 262: It Turns Out Curses Also Requires Spirit Stones

There are two types of curses: range curses and specific curses.

A range curse affected the target's fortune, ranging from minor inconveniences and obstacles in their actions to catastrophic disasters like lightning strikes. This kind of curse is not easy to perform and carries a significant backlash.

The success rate of such curses was very high.

People curse others at the cost of their own lives and luck.

However, few living people engage in such curses as they lack sufficient luck, and the backlash may be greater than the curse itself.

The art of cursing is powerful but difficult to cast.

On the other hand, specific curses target body parts or specific events. They have a lesser backlash, a lower cost, and a higher success rate.

Cursing was a practice distinct from ordinary spellcasting. It's difficult to eradicate and has an unusually long-lasting effect.

For example, a simple curse of rotting and decay could make the person rot throughout their life, even when they healed themselves constantly.

However, such simple curses were not considered significant in the cultivation world, and most people had the ability to deal with them.

After skimming through the book, Jiang Hao discovered similarities between curses and the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl.

“It is no wonder the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl can suppress curses. It itself is a massive curse.”

“But cursing someone is much more complicated than I expected.”

At first, Jiang Hao thought it only required simple materials and a specific incantation to perform a curse.

But it was not that simple.

It required the right timing, a favorable location, a formation, materials, and spiritual stones.

It turned out that curses required many spirit stones. It was important to avoid the backlash.

The more spirit stones used, the lesser the backlash.

Otherwise, one would suffer from unknown side effects.

Most of these curses were harmful to the body.

Jiang Hao hesitated but decided to give the curse a try. If it didn't work, he would consider other alternatives.

In any case, he couldn't let Bai Ye become a top disciple.

Jiang Hao pondered whether to curse Bai Ye's cultivation or his body.

'First, let's prepare.'

He needed to wait for the right time to cast the curse, preferably at night when everything was quiet and there was minimal interference.

Next was the orientation. A favorable orientation would increase the success rate. Then, the formation should correspond to the time of birth of the caster.

Jiang Hao observed the courtyard and confirmed the location of the Hundred Bones Forest.

Finally, he began drawing the curse formation. The formation was called the Three-In-One Formation.

It consisted of two parts: placing the cursed object and casting the curse.

There was also a place for the substitute object around the curse formation.

He needed the blood of a beast, its head, spirit herbs, and other materials with abundant spiritual energy.

The book indicated that without these items, success would be difficult.

Jiang Hao had to buy them. In the end, he spent sixty spirit stones on the materials.

Sixty spirit stones wasn't very expensive. However, he needed to buy materials to cast the curse for seven consecutive days to ensure its success.

The cost of materials would add up.

At night, with everything ready, Jiang Hao was about to curse Bai Ye's cultivation. He wanted to prevent him from making any progress regarding his cultivation.

He placed the Wishful Mountain Shield in the formation. He didn't use any spirit stones. Instead, he wanted to endure the backlash.

He already had the Misfortune Pearl with him. The backlash from the curse wouldn't harm him much.

He wanted to understand the power of curses and prevent others from cursing him.

The curse began, and the formation emitted a faint light.

When the curse was placed, the blood in the formation started to burn. The beast's head turned to ashes, and the spirit herbs withered.

At this moment, the Wishful Mountain Shield lit up.

Jiang Hao was enveloped in a black mist, and his flesh burned. This was the backlash from the curse.

His Revival of Withered Tree ability activated itself and began to heal him. Jiang Hao was relieved and delighted. He then increased the intensity of the curse.

The light shone brighter. His skin was burning. His skin blackened faster than it could heal.

Jiang Hao didn't mind. If he could withstand the backlash of the curse, then Bai Ye might be able to withstand it too.

If he increased the intensity of the curse to the extent that he couldn't withstand its effect, then it would be less likely for Bai Ye to resist it too.

Jiang Hao continued to heighten the curse until his body was barely able to

After a while, he stopped.

The Wishful Mountain Shield emitted a dark light. The curse might finally be effective.

After escaping from the curse, Jiang Hao took out the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl. The damage to his body ceased immediately.

The Revival of Withered Tree began healing him faster.

By noon, he had completely recovered, but the curse's backlash was not entirely gone. It was only suppressed.

Jiang Hao felt that the Revival of Withered Tree ability could dissolve the curse. Otherwise, he would have to find another solution.

After that, Jiang Hao left the courtyard and went to the Spiritual Herb Garden. After tending to the spirit herbs and buying the necessary materials, he returned to his courtyard.

In this way, Jiang Hao cursed Bai Ye continuously for a month.

He only stopped because his spirit stones were exhausted.

At this point, Jiang Hao felt the side effects of the curse from head to toe. The Hong Meng Heart Sutra helped suppress it a bit.

However, it wasn't as effective as the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl. When he took out the pearl, the side effects of the curse disappeared.

After that, the Revival of Withered Tree worked continuously to heal and eradicate the remaining effects of the curse's backlash.

'If I can use the pearl and the ability to heal myself, why not go all out?'

However, after looking at the materials he had left, he brushed the thought aside.

At least 300 spirit stones were needed for each attempt. If he continued casting the curse, it would take several thousand spirit stones. It was quite expensive for him.

He wondered how many spirit stones it would have cost Gui to curse the dragon.

Jiang Hao sighed and opened his interface.

[Name: Jiang Hao]

[Age: 25]

[Cultivation: Middle Stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm]

[Cultivation Method: Heavenly Sound Hundred Revolutions, Hong Meng Heart

Sutra]

[Divine Ability: Nine Revolutions Death Substitution (unique), Daily Appraisal,

Clear and Pure Heart, Reappearance of Hidden Spirit, Divine Might, Revival of Withered Tree]

[Lifeflood: 46/100 (can be cultivated)] [Cultivation: 44/100 (can be cultivated)] [Divine Abilities: 0/3 (cannot be obtained)]

'Twenty-five? Well... it's already mid-January.'

"There are still about six months until the challenge between Bai Ye and Manlong."

Jiang Hao felt that his current level of power was not enough. He needed to save some money and try again.

As for the peach tree, he would have to wait another year for its incarnation.

This time, he would need around twenty thousand spirit stones. It was close to impossible to save up that many spirit stones.

Obtaining one more divine ability would not make any difference unless he became stronger.

The ten Foundation Establishment Realm pills he had bought were all fake.. She had cheated him off of spirit stones!

Chapter 263: The Demoness Looked Displeased

It was mid-June.

In the Hundred Flowers Lake, a graceful figure sat by a stone table in a pavilion.

She gazed at the flowers.

Rain drizzled from the sky, and the flowers gently swayed as if welcoming the rain.

At this moment, a white figure descended on the pavilion.

"Sect Master," said Baizhi in greeting.

"Speak." Hong Yuye didn't turn around.

"The people from the Divine Corpse Sect have arrived in the Hidden Cloud Prefecture and have made contact with us," Baizhi reported.

"Are they here to save someone?" Hong Yuye asked as she picked up her teacup.

"No. They say they've come for the Corpse Realm Flowers," said Baizhi. "They said that when the Corpse Realm Flower blooms, approximately forty-eight people can enter the open realm. They want to occupy twenty-four spots inside. As for the price, they're willing to negotiate freely with us. They also made it clear that they aren't our enemies. They said they wouldn't seize the flowers by force. They apologize for Zhuang Yuzhen's mistake, and they are willing to shoulder some of the responsibility. As for releasing the captives, that's up to us."

"Are they trustworthy?" Hong Yuye as she sipped her tea.

"It seems likely. However, we need to be cautious. Their sect's strength far surpasses ours. If a war breaks out, both sides will suffer heavy losses. Before coming here, they also visited the Blackheaven Sect, the Sunset Immortal Sect, the Wind Lightning Sect, and Azure Mountain. They haven't visited any demonic sects," said Baizhi. "There's a possibility that they want to unite the people in the vicinity to deal with us. Or they might just use it as a threat to force us to agree to their proposal."

With a major sect like the Divine Corpse Sect leading the way, the others might be tempted to follow. After all, they had all suffered at the hands of the Heavenly Note Sect.

Azure Mountain was especially eager to fight against the Heavenly Note Sect because they had suffered a heavy blow.

However, sects like the Blackheaven Sect have their own matters to attend to. They might not have enough troops to spare.

Otherwise, they would have already joined forces to attack and subdue the Heavenly Note Sect.

"If the Divine Corpse Sect wants to come here, then let them come. Keep an eye on them, and if there's any unusual activity, detain them all," Hong Yuye said calmly.

"Yes." Baizhi nodded. She felt that as long as the Sect Master was here, the Heavenly Note Sect would never fall.

"Is there anything else?" Hong Yuye asked.

"Zhuang Yuzhen has been acting crazy. Jiang Hao may have found some leverage over him. Perhaps it's the people behind Jiang Hao who are helping him."

With regard to Zhuang Yuzhen, Jiang Hao needed to visit him in person to uncover more information. Besides him, Zhuang Yuzhen never talked to anyone else.

"Jiang Hao hasn't visited the prisoner in so long. I can only suspect that he is afraid to go. Perhaps he has no more leverage against him. So, we have no choice but to keep him hanging. He had some connection with the Divine Corpse Sect. I suspect a clone from the Divine Corpse Sect approached Jiang Hao. The Divine Corpse was killed. The Law Enforcement Hall is trying to investigate the matter, but it's proving difficult. Jiang Hao also had some conflicts with a highly talented disciple. We still have no information about the person we suspect is behind Jiang Hao. We can only wait for something to happen and then continue the investigation."

Baizhi hadn't pursued the matter further. There was no need. As long as they monitored the Corpse Realm Flowers, everything should be okay.

After all, their goal had always been to lure out traitors.

"There's information that someone from Azure Mountain contacted people from overseas, but... it's still not clear. It'll take some time to investigate," said Baizhi.

“Based on recent information, it seems that a group of people has entered the southern region, possibly for the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl. It might mean that the Misfortune Pearl is no longer in the Devil’s Den.”

“Don’t worry. Just assume that the pearl is still in Devil’s Den and do your own thing,” said Hong Yuye.

Baizhi realized that the Sect Master had it all under control. She just needed to follow the instructions.

“Let the people from the Divine Corpse Sect send their information about the

Corpse Realm Flower. Allow two disciples from each branch to enter,” said

Hong Yuye.

Baizhi nodded. She needed to make some arrangements.

Cliff of Broken Hearts.

In the courtyard, Jiang Hao stopped his curse.

For half a year, he earned spirit stones for a month and cursed Bai Ye.

His body was suffering severe side effects. If it weren’t for the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl, the impact of the curse would have been dangerous.

He didn’t believe that Bai Ye was unharmed at this point.

He had also accumulated a large amount of cultivation.

[Vital Energy: 83/100 (Can be cultivated)]

[Cultivation: 82/100 (Can be cultivated)]

In the next three months, he would be able to reach the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm.

During this period, everything was quiet. Bai Ye was busy with his preparations. The Pavilion Master of the heavenly Joy Pavilion had already snatched his resources away, so he could only imagine they were satisfied for now.

The people from the Heavenly Joy Pavilion were probably still waiting for the right opportunity to attack him.

The disciples from the Sunset Immortal Sect couldn't enter the Heavenly Note Sect.

The people from the Heavenly Saint Sect seemed to have disappeared.

Even Ming Yi hadn't come to see him for a long time.

The only troublesome thing was the outer sect's spirit herb garden. Recently, Ning Xuan visited the garden and told him not to be the last one to come up with a solution. Jiang Hao was worried.

Fortunately, there was still plenty of time. For now, he wanted to devote his full focus on Bai Ye.

'Next month is the day of the challenge. By then, I'll know how effective the curse is.' Jiang Hao breathed a sigh of relief.

He needed to continue earning more spirit stones.

In the past six months, he hadn't seen Leng Tian or Dan Yuan. He was only able to sell some talismans.

If a major battle occurred, the talismans would sell quickly.

He wanted to find out how Bai Ye was after he cast the curse, so he often went to find Liu Xingchen to find out more.

Unfortunately, Liu Xingchen was busy and wasn't able to meet him.

It seemed any remnant soul that was in the mines was terrified of Liu Xingchen. The remnant of the dragon and the sorcerer were still waiting to band together with another soul and attack Liu Xingchen.

In the evening, the spirit beast approached him.

"Master, I'm going to find Lin Zhi. I feel that he has made great progress lately. He can now avoid being hit in his vital points," said the beast.

The spirit beast had practically raised Lin Zhi and Chu Chuan alone. They were young when they arrived at the sect. Three years had passed, and the spirit beast had constantly been by their side.

Jiang Hao nodded and let it go. He decided to go and observe them. He had to make sure the spirit beast wasn't being a bad influence on them.

Just as he walked into the courtyard, he saw a figure in red.

She frowned when she saw Jiang Hao, and a dangerous aura swept over him..

Chapter 264: You Only Care About Me When It Comes To Bathing

Jiang Hao knew he was in trouble.

However, he didn't know what he had done to offend her. She attacked him as soon as they met.

Hong Yuye stood in the courtyard. Her aura was terrifying.

"You seem to enjoy these... unlucky things," she said as her cold gaze fixed on him.

'Unlucky?'

Jiang Hao understood that she was referring to the curse on his body. Hong Yuye didn't like unlucky magic. Whether it was the ancient tomb or the heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl, she had made it clear that she disliked such ominous things.

"Senior..."

Jiang Hao wanted to explain, but the terrifying aura had already surged forward.

With a loud bang, he was sent flying backward.

Jiang Hao thought he would crash into a wall, but there was nothing behind him. He went flying and landed in the river instead.

He wanted to get out of the river, but he couldn't move his body. The river water washed over him. He was never afraid of drowning, but he was suffocating right now.

After a short while, he regained control of his body. He struggled out of the river and lay on the ground.

He let out a heavy sigh of relief. He then used his magic to dry his clothes.

When he headed to the courtyard, he realized that he felt much lighter than before. He was surprised to find that all the curses and side effects had disappeared from his body.

“Thank you, Senior!”

Hong Yuye was sitting under the tree in the courtyard.

“Thanking me, huh?” Hong Yuye smiled. “Should I take your arm or your leg in exchange? Or should I put it on your tab?”

Jiang Hao was speechless. It’s better not to respond. He felt that she might attack him.

“If I see such an unlucky thing next time, would you be willing to give up your arm or your leg?” asked Hong Yuye.

“This was just an accident,” Jiang Hao explained.

Hong Yuye chuckled. She sat on the wooden chair and told Jiang Hao to prepare some tea.

After a while, Jiang Hao placed the tea in front of Hong Yuye and then sat down to talk about the previous gathering.

He started with the discussion they had had about cultivation at the gathering. Then he talked about the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl and the Seven-Stars Technique invented by Dan Yuan.

He then handed his book to Hong Yuye.

He had already appraised the book but found nothing amiss.

After a while, Hong Yuye finished reading the book about the Seven-Stars Technique.

"If he created this, he does seem to be powerful. However, it will have no effect on the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl after it erupts. It could seal the pearl in its current state for a few hours, but that's about it."

Jiang Hao nodded. Compared to the Universe in a Palm Technique, the Seven-Stars Sealing Technique fell short by a lot. However, sealing it for a few hours would be enough for the other cultivators to reach him.

"Go on," Hong Yuye said, lifting her teacup.

"Dan Yuan gave me detailed information on why the Great Thousand God Sect was in the Hidden Cloud Prefecture." Jiang Hao explained it to her in detail.

Hong Yuye glanced at the paper on the table and listened as Jiang Hao recounted the information.

"The end of all things?" she asked.

"Yes. But I don't know who or what it means. I've asked the other members of the gathering to investigate it further," Jiang Hao said.

"Oh?" Hong Yuye sounded intrigued. "You seem to have a talent for undercover work."

"It's all thanks to your blessings, Senior," Jiang Hao said humbly.

"Go on," Hong Yuye said.

Then he talked about the Shifting Stars Technique and Dan Yuan's explanation of it.

Hong Yuye remained silent.

Jiang Hao continued with his report of the changes overseas and the purpose of the Divine Corpse Sect in the southern region.

Hong Yuye listened calmly.

Jiang Hao felt a bit regretful. There were so many things he knew but couldn't mention at the gathering. However, that wasn't necessary right now.

"Have their identities been confirmed?" Hong Yuye asked.

"No." Jiang Hao shook his head.

He hadn't been able to confirm anyone's identity at the gathering yet.

He didn't even know for sure if Dan Yuan had contacted Zhuang Yuzhen personally.

Right now, Jiang Hao had the Corpse Heart as leverage. Perhaps that would make the captive more willing to talk.

Jiang Hao didn't want to reveal the Corpse Heart just yet. When people didn't have much hope left, they sometimes resorted to extremes.

To lure prey into a trap, they needed to be shown the hope of escape.

"You just mentioned that the Bright Moon Sect has started sending invitations?" Hong Yuye looked at Jiang Hao. "Aren't you going to go there to take a look?"

Jiang Hao shook his head.

He had no intention of going there. It was too dangerous.

“Do you really want to stay in the Heavenly Note Sect forever?” Hong Yuye asked.

“I can take care of your flower here, Senior.”

“You can take my flower and tree along,” she said.

Jiang Hao was at a loss for words. He couldn’t tell her that he was afraid to go.

The Heavenly Note Sect was smaller than the Bright Moon Sect. There were so many people who coveted the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower. If they attacked him, he couldn’t protect himself or the flower.

It was better to stay where he was.

He could stay here and cultivate beside the flower. Since the flower was important to the sect, he got some sort of protection for taking care of it too.

Elder Baizhi was always there to help if something happened.

If he went to the Bright Moon Sect, he would be hypervigilant and concerned about his well-being and the flower.

He would be safer if he didn’t take the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower with him, but that would mean Hong Yuye would be angry at him. He wasn’t safe from her anywhere.

He had never visited another sect outside the Heavenly Note Sect before.

Hong Yuye didn’t say anything more. She finished drinking her tea and walked inside the house.

Once in the hall, she went to the bathroom. She saw the new bathtub. "It seems you're quite competent at getting things done." She turned to look at him.

"You flatter me, Senior," Jiang Hao said.

"It's a pity you only care about me when it comes to bathing, and you're full of lies and your benefits are all based on luck," Hong Yuye said with an ambiguous smile.

Jiang Hao was momentarily speechless..

Chapter 265: I Suspect Someone From The Cliff Of Broken Hearts Cursed Me

Jiang Hao didn't think Hong Yuye was entirely right about that.

Although he had relied on his luck in the beginning, he had worked hard to get where he was. The undercover work was also difficult.

If he hadn't encountered that dragon in the village, he wouldn't have been able to establish his footing in the gathering.

He also had to handle the troubles within the Heavenly Note Sect.

Jiang Hao didn't explain all this.

"Senior, you jest," he said.

Hong Yuye left the bathroom and went to the balcony on the second floor.

"How long have you been carrying the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl?" she asked.

Jiang Hao thought for a moment. "Two years."

"Then it should be soon..." Hong Yuye stood on the balcony, her clothes fluttering in the wind. She turned and looked at Jiang Hao.

"During this time, it's best if you don't leave the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl elsewhere. Don't lose it. If someone finds it and uses it, you'll also suffer the backlash."

Her figure faded away.

"By the way... You can try to spread rumors of the pearl being within the Heavenly Note Sect. That way, the people who are targeting you will flee the sect overnight."

"Wouldn't that attract the people who seek the pearl?"

Those who targeted him were at most in the Golden Core realm, with some in the Primordial Spirit Realm. However, those seeking the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl would be beyond those cultivation realms.

He simply didn't have time. He needed to get stronger. He decided to ignore Hong Yuye's suggestion.

"Remember to take care of my flower. If you escape to another place without taking my flower and tree with you, you will bear the consequences." With that, Hong Yuye disappeared completely.

Jiang Hao felt a gentle breeze and a faint fragrance as she faded away.

He always recognized her fragrance. Jiang Hao didn't know if the Heaven Extinction Gu Poison made him more perceptive of her.

He checked his body again and found out that the curse's backlash had disappeared.

“Such a simple move removed all the backlash... I don’t think I’ll be able to endure the backlash if I try to curse an expert...”

Cursing techniques were powerful, but the backlash was too severe. Once affected by the curse, it was very difficult to remove it.

As Hong Yuye had warned him, using it often wouldn’t be good.

‘Using it once or twice should be fine. The Revival of Withered Tree can easily dispel the backlash, after all.’

He had used the curse too many times. Even with the Revival of Withered Tree ability, it would have taken him a year or more to get rid of the side effects.

If it weren’t for the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl, it might have taken him even longer. He wouldn’t have been able to cultivate.

As someone in the middle stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm, he couldn’t bear to carry on such curses.

It would be even more difficult for Bai Ye to get rid of it. He would probably lose to Manlong.

As for the rest, he would have to wait and see.

At the Hundred Bones Forest, a man coughed up blood and doubled over.

He was sitting among numerous spirit herbs at the moment. There were numerous arrays, talismans, and treasures surrounding him. However, each one was shrouded in black energy and turned out to be useless.

His cultivation was on the verge of collapse.

“Senior Brother, are you alright?” Lian Qin asked.

“I’m fine. Just small damage to my cultivation, nothing more,” said the man as he raised his hand to stop her.

“Who could be cursing you in this manner, Senior Brother?” Lian Qin was astonished.

At first, they thought it was just a single curse that could be countered with treasure. However, the curse became overwhelming.

It was affecting his preparations for the upcoming challenge. Even maintaining his cultivation took enormous effort.

They had tried purchasing various purification treasures for the curse, but they only provided temporary relief.

It seemed that the one who was casting the curse was determined to go all out.

“Is it because you challenged Manlong to a fight?” asked Lian Qin. “Did Manlong do this to maintain his title so that you couldn’t win?”

“Don’t assume things without proof. It can’t be Manlong,” said Bai Ye. “Have I provoked anyone lately?”

“Where has the Hundred Bones Forest delivered spirit herbs?” he asked.

“The Cliff of Broken Hearts, the Candlelight Pavilion, the Flowing Waterfall. “The ones who accepted the spirit herbs... are they still in the sect?”

“The people from the Flowing Waterfall are currently away. The two from

Candlelight Pill Pavilion are still refining pills. The one from the Cliff of Broken

Hearts is here in the sect. Do you suspect anyone?"

"I think the one from the Cliff of Broken Hearts is the most suspicious. He is in the late stage of Foundation Establishment Realm, but my techniques have no effect on him. He has always found solutions to unravel my techniques. He isn't my match, but I do think he will stop at nothing to get back at me." Lian Qin was puzzled. "How can you be so sure he is behind this?"

Bai Ye shook his head slightly. "Just a hunch."

"What do we do?" Lian Qin asked in concern.

"Don't worry about him for now. I have to become one of the top ten disciples first. It will be difficult, but I still have to give it a try. As for the curse, I have a pill that can temporarily suppress it and stabilize my cultivation. After the challenge is over, I'll pay a visit to the Cliff of Broken Hearts. I want to confirm if he's really behind this."

"Doesn't that pill have significant side effects?" Lian Qin asked.

"There is a possibility of falling back to the middle stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm, but this is necessary. The curse continues to torment me, and it will make me fall back to the middle stage eventually. If I succeed, the curse won't be a problem anymore."

One month later, around mid-July, Jiang Hao used the Seven-Stars Sealing Technique on the spirit beast in the courtyard.

The spirit beast was unable to escape from the circle, no matter how much it tried. The stars on the seal could even be used for attacks. This sealing technique was indeed impressive.

Unlike the Universe in a Palm, the Seven-Stars Sealing Technique could be set up while in combat. The seven stars connected to form the seal.

It was very practical. Dan Yuan was truly gifted.

“Senior Brother Jiang, are you free? I need to talk to you,” said Han Ming.

Jiang Hao was surprised. Today was the day Bai Ye and Manlong would challenge each other. Everyone was eager to watch them.

He was also planning to head there. He hadn’t expected Han Ming to visit him today..

Chapter 266: Beat Him Up!

It was early morning. The gentle sunlight illuminated the courtyard as Jiang Hao arrived at the gate.

A young man there. He looked more mature than his age implied.

Ming had already turned twenty-four. Jiang Hao had first met him when he was only eighteen.

More than five years had passed since then. His cultivation and his personality had both developed quite rapidly.

A True Disciple at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm at only twenty-four years of age was an extraordinary feat. It had given the Cliff of Broken Hearts quite a reputation.

Unlike Jiang Hao, who supposedly reached the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm with the help of external treasures and assistance, Han

Ming had done it on his own.

He made a name for himself through countless battles.

“Junior Brother Han, it’s been so long since I last saw you. I wanted to thank you for everything you did for me,” said Jiang Hao.

Han Ming had taken on challenges that had been meant for Jiang Hao. Jiang Hao had intended to visit him to thank him, but he had been caught up with curses and such.

Having just advanced to the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, it was only natural that he needed time to refine his cultivation. It seemed that he was done refining it.

“Senior Brother Jiang, I have also reached the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm like you,” said Han Ming. “Therefore, I’ve come here today to challenge you.”

“A challenge?” Jiang Hao wasn’t surprised. “Junior Brother Han, would you like to challenge me right now, or should we set a date?”

“Do you have time now?” Han Ming was surprised.

In truth, Han Ming wanted to choose another day. However, if Jiang Hao said he had time right now, he couldn’t back out.

“I have time.” Jiang Hao nodded.

“Then, Senior Brother Jiang, are you prepared? Unlike you, I have taken on challenges and fought many people. I have gained a lot of combat experience. You should be careful. I’m not the same as before.”

“I would never underestimate you, Junior Brother Han. You have exceptional talent.”

Shortly after, the two stood by the river.

One held a sword, while the other gripped his saber.

As they faced each other, their auras disrupted the gentle breeze.

At this moment, Jiang Hao could see that Han Ming's aura was stable, but beneath that stability, there was an underlying surge. His power was ready to erupt at any moment.

Sure enough, as Han Ming made his move, his aura surged and exploded.

His sword was unsheathed, and he rushed forward like lightning.

Jiang Hao swung his saber.

Clang!

He wanted to fight Han Ming as an equal opponent. He had earned that. So, he used the first form of the Heavenly Blade: Moon-Slaying.

He swung his saber again.

Han Ming couldn't withstand it.

On the third strike, Han Ming's sword flew into the air and impaled itself on the ground.

Jiang Hao's saber was resting on Han Ming's neck.

"Junior Brother Han, you have my respect. You have become so much stronger." Jiang Hao retracted the knife and sheathed it.

Han Ming stared at Jiang Hao and then picked up his sword. "I only lag behind you slightly. Once I refine my cultivation even more, I will come back to challenge you again. I hope you don't mind."

After saying that, he turned and left.

Jiang Hao smiled. He would perhaps extend the fight to five strikes next time. That way, he could acknowledge Han Ming's efforts and his talent.

Defeating Han Ming constantly wouldn't attract unwanted attention. There was always a chance for that, after all.

Jiang Hao quickly made his way to the challenge that was supposed to happen today.

The place wasn't familiar to Jiang Hao. He wondered if it was Bai Ye's residence.

At the Hundred Bones Forest, he could already see that so many people had already gathered.

The challenge to win the title of a top disciple had attracted considerable attention.

"Junior Brother Jiang, it's been so long since I last saw you." Liu Xingchen approached him.

'Senior Brother Liu, hello! Are you also here to watch the contest?'

"Of course. I want to see how strong a top disciple is." Liu Xingchen smiled.

Jiang Hao nodded. He noticed a faint, dark red aura around Liu Xingchen. It was different from the aura of the remnant soul of the true dragon and the sorcerer.

'Did he already find the third remnant?'

He didn't rush to find out. He wanted to watch the fight first.

It wasn't surprising. The mines were strange. It was rumored to be an ancient battlefield. So, it wasn't as surprising to think that stray remnant souls could be residing there.

Another place was the Devil's Den, but the mines were relatively safer.

A short while later, the two arrived outside the valley. The arena was inside. No one went near it.

The fight between two disciples at the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm was bound to be impactful. Nobody ventured near the arena.

Jiang Hao observed the surroundings. The most important thing right now was to find out where Bai Ye lived.

Hong Yuye had warned him, so he couldn't continue with the curse. Knowing where the enemy lived would turn out to be handy.

In two months, he might be able to advance to the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm. He would then come to find Bai Ye.

However, if Bai Ye became one of the top ten disciples, things would get complicated.

"When does the fight begin?" he asked.

"It's hard to say. There is no set time. It depends on when Manlong arrives," said Liu Xingchen.

Jiang Hao nodded.

"By the way, I heard that people from the Divine Corpse Sect are visiting our sect. It seems they want to cooperate with us," Liu Xingchen said.

“The Divine Corpse Sect wants to cooperate with us?” Jiang Hao looked surprised.

Zhuang Yuzhen, one of their teachers, was still imprisoned in the Heavenly Note Sect, and yet they wanted to cooperate!

It could mean that they had something else planned. What were they seeking in the sect?

“I heard it’s related to the Corpse Realm Flowers,” Liu Xingchen said.

Jiang Hao nodded. It made sense.

The Corpse Realm Flowers could open a special passage to an unknown realm.

The people from the Divine Corpse Sect might be planning to enter that realm, so they wanted to cooperate to get the flowers back.

The Heavenly Note Sect couldn’t refuse their proposal. Their sect’s power was formidable, after all. Fighting would be detrimental to everyone.

In any case, as a member involved in interrogating Zhuang Yuzhen, he should maintain a low profile and avoid attracting their attention.

They waited for some time. The crowd grew larger. He saw some familiar faces in the throng of people.

Ning Xuan was also in the audience.

At that moment, a tall man stood on slightly elevated ground in the valley. He appeared to be at the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm.

But in Jiang Hao's eyes, his cultivation had been forcibly improved and consolidated through the use of some pills.

The person bore traces of a curse, and his aura fluctuated unpredictably.

Jiang Hao knew the moment he saw Bai Ye that his curse was successful.

Bai Ye's cultivation was not only affected but was also regressing to some extent.

This curse, which caused self-damage but inflicted greater harm on the enemy, was indeed effective. If it weren't for Hong Yuye's intervention, he would have been tormented by the curse himself. Bai Ye would likely continue to suffer for a long time.

Boom!

Suddenly, a figure descended from the sky.

Manlong appeared in front of Bai Ye.

People cheered for him.

"Senior Brother Manlong, beat him up!"

"No one is a match against Senior Brother Manlong. I heard that Senior Brother Bai Ye is a cross-level cultivator. He can't possibly win!"

Jiang Hao observed Manlong.

He noticed that his spiritual energy was vast, and his aura continued to surge. He practically shone with vitality.

In comparison, Bai Ye seemed somewhat insignificant..

Chapter 267: Unexpected Outcome

In front of Manlong, Jiang Hao felt that Bai Ye had no chance of winning.

But there were numerous plants and spirit herbs in the surroundings. It meant that Manlong had unknowingly entered Bai Ye's domain.

"Junior Brother Jiang, who do you think will win?" Liu Xingchen asked. "I feel like Senior Brother Manlong will win. But I remember you saying Bai Ye had a chance."

"Yes. It is said that Bai Ye knows how to use his home ground to his advantage. The seniors didn't find anything wrong after inspecting the grounds, but I feel that Manlong is at a disadvantage here," said Liu Xingchen.

"Are only seniors allowed to inspect the location?" asked Jiang Hao.

Liu Xingchen nodded. "If Bai Ye somehow managed to deceive his seniors, it means he is powerful."

Jiang Hao remained silent. He wanted to see the true strength of a top disciple.

"Can we start now?" Manlong smiled.

Jiang Hao frowned. He could feel that Manlong was full of power and vitality. If he were to erupt instantly, Bai Ye would theoretically be unable to stop him.

"Of course, Senior Brother," said Bai Ye politely.

Please, senior brother." Bai Ye said gently.

In terms of strength, Jiang Hao could clearly see that the two were not in the same league.

“Alright!” said Manlong.

Then he roared, unleashing a powerful force that swept the land like a hurricane.

In an instant, sand and rocks flew up, and his power converged.

Whoosh!

He disappeared from his position.

He suddenly appeared in front of Bai Ye and threw a punch.

The tremendous force caused a small whirlwind in the vicinity.

If that punch landed, the fight would surely come to an end.

However, Bai Ye drew an array, and numerous spirit herbs surged up from the ground and blocked Manlong.

Boom!

His fist collided with the plants and shattered them.

However, there was no trace of Bai Ye behind the spirit herbs. He had retreated somewhere into the numerous growths of spirit herbs.

“It’s useless. These things can’t stop me! Junior Brother Bai Ye, you better try something else. You aren’t as fast as me.”

Manlong’s aura erupted. His power was even more ferocious and overwhelming than before.

His fist was still aimed at Bai Ye, but when he was about to strike, his spiritual energy suddenly plummeted.

Bai Ye launched a counterattack. Vines surged from the ground. They resembled sharp blades as they attacked Manlong.

Boom!

Manlong was forced to retreat. He looked at the vines and frowned. His spiritual energy then condensed into a gigantic beast.

“Bai Ye, I don’t believe you can last until the poison in my body takes effect.” The power surged wildly, and the ground cracked. The vines shattered, and the herbs crumbled.

The wide-range attack seemed to eliminate all threats in the vicinity.

At this moment, Bai Ye advanced. He held a longsword and his figure flickered. He was so fast that he appeared to be a blur. Jiang Hao was surprised.

Clang!

The sword clashed with the fierce beast. The sword went flying, and the beast began to expand and shatter.

Manlong furrowed his brow, realizing that he couldn’t fully control his spiritual energy.

At this moment, he gave up on the fierce beast and charged straight toward Bai

“If I catch you, it’s over!”

Manlong coughed up blood. However, it didn’t slow him down.

Bai Ye remained calm and stood his ground.

When Manlong reached out to grab him, it was clear that he should have caught him. However, something strange happened.

“Illusionary Technique,” Jiang Hao said.

“Junior Brother Jiang, you have great insight. Indeed, it is an illusion technique. Manlong has entered the illusion state. I didn’t notice when he entered.” Liu Xingchen said.

Jiang Hao felt the danger. Manlong’s strength was too formidable. Every time he saw him make a move, he instinctively wanted to use the Mountain Suppression Technique to resist.

He wasn’t a match at all. It was no wonder Manlong had made it to the top ten. He was terrifying.

As for Bai Ye, his strength was indeed far inferior to Manlong, but he possessed the Sealing Spirit Technique, Illusory Technique, Poisonous Technique, and even the Cursing Technique.

During these past six months, he might not have had time to cultivate, but he had time to learn the Cursing Technique. And he had applied it skillfully.

Although the effect might not be very strong, when used properly, it could indeed yield unexpected results.

Jiang Hao felt somewhat worried about Manlong.

The poison, curse, sealing, illusion—various techniques had been applied to him. Dragging the fight out would not be beneficial for him.

Boom!

The power on the field roared as Bai Ye dodged and launched attacks of his own.

Although Manlong had destroyed almost all the spirit herbs, he couldn't alleviate the damage to his own body.

There must be something else in the surroundings.

Bai Ye wouldn't foolishly rely on the spirit herbs in the field as his trump card.

However, Manlong's power was not to be underestimated. Even though he was poisoned, he could still overpower Bai Ye. The only thing lacking was an opening.

If Bai Ye made one mistake, he would be defeated.

But he never made a mistake. Everything seemed to be under his control.

The fight was so intense that it destroyed the surrounding plants and cracked the ground.

Bai Ye was also injured. All of his attacks were forced. At this moment, his body was surrounded by numerous techniques. Although his spiritual energy had collapsed, he was still going all out.

"It feels like they're reaching their limits," Liu Xingchen said.

Jiang Hao nodded. Indeed, they were reaching their limits. Both of them were in bad condition.

Manlong endured the techniques, and Bai Ye was exhausted.

At this moment, Manlong's body seemed to be burning as he prepared for his final attack.

Bai Ye stood his ground, and a formation appeared around him. Immediately, countless spirit herbs gathered there.

It seemed that the more spiritual items there were, the stronger his formation became.

This astonished everyone.

"What a powerful formation! If there were divine items all around, his power would increase rapidly," Jiang Hao said in awe.

However, he still favored Manlong. Bai Ye's current situation would lead to his defeat.

In the next moment, the attacks began.

Neither side wanted to hold back. Powerful forces started to rampage the arena.

In the blink of an eye, the forces collided.

Boom!

Sand and stones surged around them.

The formation gradually disintegrated under Manlong's fist. If this went on, it would be over for Bai Ye.

Jiang Hao stared fixedly at Manlong, observing his power circulation, aura expansion, and spiritual energy.

He could hold on for a while longer.

Meanwhile, the source of power in Bai Ye's formation was severed, and his own power was trying hard to suppress the curse.

He might not be able to withstand it much longer.

Manlong's aura suddenly deteriorated. Then he coughed out blood.

His power started to crumble. The formation attacked Manlong and injured him severely.

With a bang, Manlong was sent flying backward. He crashed heavily onto the ground. He didn't rise again.

Jiang Hao was stunned. He couldn't believe it!

Manlong had interrupted his attack himself. He had somehow held back. Jiang Hao had never expected something like this to happen..

Chapter 268: The Final Test

Manlong's actions surprised Jiang Hao.

It was strange that he had given up at the last moment. The benefits of a top disciple far exceeded that of a True Disciple.

Otherwise, Bai Ye wouldn't have spent so much time and effort to become one of the ten disciples. Even so, Manlong had gone easy on him.

Jiang Hao almost hadn't noticed.

Bai Ye's spells were difficult to fathom, so it was tough to tell whether they were real or fake. He didn't know if any of the masters of the twelve branches would be watching the fight.

If they sensed it, would they intervene? 'I miscalculated.' Jiang Hao sighed.

"He won?! "

The audience was in disbelief.

"I think so."

"Did you see how he managed to win?"

"I don't understand... Senior Brother Manlong kept getting injured, and then..."

"Senior Brother Bai Ye couldn't get close to him. If he had gotten close, it would have been over for him. So, they kept trying to injure each other. In the end, it became a test of who could hold out longer."

"Does this mean Bai Ye is going to become one of the top ten disciples?"

"Not yet... there's still one last round."

Jiang Hao looked into the distance.

Now that Bai Ye had defeated Manlong, there was only one last test left. If he passed that, he would be one of the top ten disciples.

The test wasn't as difficult as defeating Manlong. He would probably pass that.

"Junior Brother Jiang, do you think that Bai Ye will become the tenth top disciple?" asked Liu Xingchen.

"It seems like it."

Although he was unwilling to accept it, it was clear that Bai Ye had won.

However, Jiang Hao still had hope. If he could advance to the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm, he could still plan his revenge. It would just take longer than he had anticipated.

"I wonder which top disciple is coming to test him," said Liu Xingchen.

At this moment, a figure descended from the sky.

It was a woman in a purple dress. She was tall and fair. Her hair was tied into a bun.

She landed in front of Bai Ye. "Congratulations on defeating Manlong, Junior Brother Bai Ye. Now, let me verify your qualifications. I will suppress my cultivation to the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm. I will only use one move. If you are standing upright even after that, you will have passed the test. "

"That is the sixth top disciple, Senior Sister Wei Si, from the Heavenly Joy Pavilion!" said Liu Xingchen.

"Usually, the one who tests a potential disciple would be from the first rank to the fifth."

"So, will it be easier to pass?" Jiang Hao asked.

"It's hard to say. For Bai Ye, in the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm, there's no difference between the fifth and sixth disciples. They are equally formidable against him," Liu Xingchen said.

Jiang Hao wasn't very optimistic about the outcome. If it was just one move, Bai Ye could probably block it.

"Can we begin?" asked Wei Si as she suppressed her cultivation. Bai Ye took a deep breath and gathered all his power. "Yes, Senior Sister."

Wei Si looked at Bai Ye. Her spiritual energy began to surge around her.

In an instant, she moved.

The surrounding spiritual energy flowed. It was as though everything around was under her control.

Everyone was confused. Wei Si seemed to have moved from her position, but it seemed as though she hadn't at the same time.

She was already in front of Bai Ye.

Bai Ye was caught off guard. There was no time to react. Wei Si placed her hand on Bai Ye's chest.

He doubled over and spat a mouthful of blood. He was sent flying backward after that.

With a thud, he fell to the ground. His blood spread on the ground.

Wei Si waited for Bai Ye to get up, but he couldn't.

"Bai Ye, you have failed the test," she said.

The crowd was in an uproar. Jiang Hao was in disbelief. He was still shocked by her palm strike. She had calmly placed her palm on Bai Ye's chest, but all the surrounding spiritual energy seemed to respond to her.

Jiang Hao felt that even he couldn't withstand such an attack. Wei Si had even suppressed her cultivation. He couldn't imagine how strong she was at her peak.

Jiang Hao took a deep breath to calm himself. He didn't need to hurry. He could become stronger than this.

However, Bai Ye's failure made it look so unreal. He was defeated at the last moment.

Bai Ye still had the curse to deal with. All in all, Jiang Hao felt that the outcome had been good.

He could advance and confront him in a few months. He couldn't kill him, of course. However, he would figure something out.

"He failed just like that?"

"Senior Brother Bai Ye failed... Does that mean Manlong is still the tenth top disciple?"

"Isn't that unfair? Senior Brother Bai Ye already won the challenge. How is he expected to face a sixth top disciple at her full power?"

"It's fair. Bai Ye already had the home- ground advantage. This was his last test. "

"The challenger had the home advantage. Isn't that unfair to Senior Brother Manlong?"

"How is it unfair? Senior Brother Manlong has been the tenth top disciple for many years. He has accumulated so many resources. It looks unfair to me..."

Jiang Hao felt that it sounded reasonable. The top disciples had so many privileges. If a challenger couldn't defeat a challenger despite having a home-ground advantage, then they didn't really deserve to be a top disciple.

Manlong was more than qualified to be the tenth top disciple, but why had he gone easy on Bai Ye?

Maybe Bai Ye had made him an offer he couldn't refuse.

Wei Si did not leave after that. Instead, she turned to look at Manlong.

"Bai Ye has failed to become one of the top ten disciples. However, Manlong was defeated by him. That was humiliating for all the top ten disciples. Manlong, you will be stripped of your title and banned from competing for the title of tenth top disciple for ten years."

"Ten years?!" Manlong struggled to get up. "Why?"

Boom!

An invisible hand descended from the sky and slapped Manlong to the ground. Bones cracked. Manlong grimaced in pain.

"If ten years is a problem for you, let's make it fifteen years," said Wei Si calmly.

Manlong didn't dare question her. Wei Si looked at everyone gathered.

"The challenge for the seat of tenth top disciple will begin in three years. Until then, the resources of the tenth place would be equally distributed among the nine others. If there is no one selected for the seat in the next three years, then the resources will be distributed to the strongest disciple in each realm category. There will be four Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators, four from Golden Core Realm and four from the Primordial Spirit Realm. We'll do this in rotation until we finally find the tenth top disciple."

She then flew up to the sky and disappeared.

Jiang Hao was a little surprised. The sixth top disciple seemed to have high authority.

Moreover, if the tenth top disciple wasn't selected, the other nine would get a lot of extra resources. It was so difficult to make it to the tenth place since they seemed unwilling to include more people.

Ye Yaqing had said it was difficult for Bai Ye to succeed. It seemed to be true.

Even Manlong had been banned from competing for the title of the tenth top disciple for fifteen years!

As for the ordinary disciples, they had the chance to obtain the resources of the tenth top disciple after three years. They needed to become the strongest in their own cultivation realm.

Jiang Hao felt that he had a chance, but it was too flashy. He didn't want to be noticed. He wanted to know what kind of resources were there before he decided to participate.

He had three years. There was no hurry.

Right now, he needed to focus on advancing to the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm..

Chapter 269: You Can Call Me Senior

In the valley, Bai Ye lay on the ground, unable to control the curse on his body. His cultivation was on the verge of collapse.

Suddenly, a magic treasure flew over him and transformed into a beam of light that enveloped his body.

"You failed, didn't you?" said Ye Yaqing. "I told you it isn't that easy to become a top disciple."

A young girl walked over to him. She was the fifth top disciple, Ye Yaqing.

"I was the one who was supposed to test you. I didn't want people to think I was biased, so I asked Wei Si to do it in my place. She was very polite about it." Ye Yaqing helped Bai Ye up. "I'll take you to the Forest Master to get treated."

"Thank you, Senior Sister, but I'm fine. If I have failed, I can accept it. However, I do want to verify something," said Bai Ye.

"What is it?" Ye Yaqing was curious.

"It's personal." Bai Ye's voice was calm. Failure hadn't fazed him one bit.

However, he was curious to confirm whether the person who had cursed him was the one he suspected from the Cliff of Broken Hearts.

"Whatever you want to do will have to wait until your injuries are healed," said Ye Yaqing.

Bai Ye nodded. She was right. He couldn't even move right now. In another month or two, his injuries would be healed.

If he was lucky, his cultivation would be intact. If not, he would have to put in more effort to cultivate and advance to the next stage.

The challenger, Bai Ye, had failed.

Not only had he been rejected for the title of the tenth top disciple, but the original tenth top disciple had also been stripped of his title.

Since Manlong was out of the picture now, many wanted to try for the seat of the tenth top disciple.

If they could somehow manage to make it, they would have ten or fifteen years of peace because Manlong wouldn't be allowed to fight them until his ban was over.

No one had dared to fight a top disciple because they were always scared of Manlong. However, seeing Bai Ye win gave them new hope.

Jiang Hao also felt that he had a chance. If the top ten disciples could be bribed, they lacked something too.

However, things like that could backfire. Bai Ye had still failed, and Manlong had been punished.

"I remember that in the last battle among the disciples of the same realm, you were the winner, right?" Liu Xingchen asked.

"At that time, only two people were sent from each branch," said Jiang Hao.

He had indeed won the last time. He could win again.

However, Jiang Hao needed to find a reason to make everyone believe that he had advanced to the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm. Otherwise, winning a fight in the late stage would seem unbelievable to many.

"Where are you going next, Senior Brother Liu?" Jiang Hao asked.

"I should be on a mission." Liu Xingchen smiled. "It's been almost six years since you killed Junior Sister Yun Ruo, right?"

"Yes." Jiang Hao nodded.

“After so many years, the number of people targeting you has decreased. However, that powerful person from the Heavenly Joy Pavilion still remembers you. The vessel was harder to find than expected, and there was still no accurate result,” Liu Xingchen said.

Jiang Hao had encountered that person when he was heading to the Lawless Tower. Just one glance, and he felt the massive aura that had almost suffocated him.

His resources for the next three years had been confiscated to please that person. If he caused no trouble in these three years, he might not be targeted anymore.

It was good that he hadn’t left the sect.

After chatting for a while longer. Jiang Hao decided to go back to his house.

However, before heading back, he appraised Liu Xingchen.

[Liu Xingchen: True Disciple of the Heavenly Faction. Born with the aura of a dragon. He found a Blood Demon in the mines. It is currently trying to possess him. The remnant soul of the True Dragon and the sorcerer are opening a path for the Blood Demon to prepare against the enemy. He has been looking forward to this but is a little disappointed that the progress has been slow. The reason he is on good terms with you is to get close to the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower to watch it carefully. He is waiting for you to cause more trouble. His interest in you has grown.]

Jiang Hao was speechless.

He bid farewell to Liu Xingchen and left. This time, it was a Blood Demon!

The remnant of a True Dragon, a sorcerer, and now a demon!

They were mighty creatures. However, the two previous entities hadn’t had any luck against Liu Xingchen. Perhaps the demon was the same.

Liu Xingchen would probably devour all three together and advance to the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm in one go!

How was he not worried about such a dangerous possession?

Jiang Hao felt that if it were him, he would do everything in his power to get rid of the remnant souls to ensure his own safety.

Jiang Hao was curious about what Liu Xingchen's level would be if he was in the Clear Sky School. They were the strongest immortal sect. They probably had very gifted disciples.

When he returned to the Spirit Herb Garden, he found some bubbles.

[Strength +1]

[Spirit +1]

[Spirit Sword +1]

As the bubble fused with him, he felt his spirit and strength improve.

He saw Miao Tinglian ushering two people into the garden. It was a man and a woman. They were dressed entirely in black robes, and their aura was formidable.

The bald man was in the middle stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm, while the woman was in the early stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm. Their auras were similar to the aura of Zhuang Yuzhen's Corpse Heart.

'People from the Divine Corpse Sect?'

Jiang Hao suddenly remembered Liu Xingchen's words. The people of the Divine Corpse Sect wanted to cooperate with the Heavenly Note Sect because they wanted to take back the Corpse Realm Flowers.

It seemed that the information was correct.

Although they were in the Primordial Spirit Realm, they only showed their cultivation at the Golden Core Realm at this moment.

"Junior Brother Jiang, you're here!" Miao Tinglian walked over to him with the two people. "These two are disciples from a sect of the north. They wanted to see our garden and the Corpse Realm Flower. The seniors aren't free, so the master told me to lead them to you. I still have so many people waiting for me to ask about the Corpse Realm Flower, so I'll have to excuse myself." Miao Tinglian left after that.

Jiang Hao was momentarily stunned. He was only at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm as far as anyone knew, so why was he assigned the duty to escort these people who were both at the Primordial Spirit Realm?

"Greetings, seniors!" Jiang Hao said. "I'm Jiang Hao. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask."

"Junior Brother, we don't have to go through formalities. We can just address each other casually. I'm Gu Cheng, and this is my Junior Sister Fang Jin," said the bald man.

"Of course. Then, with your permission, I'll address you as Disciple Gu and Disciple Fang," said Jiang Hao.

"A Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator in charge of a Spirit Herb

Garden? Do you know a lot about spirit herbs?" asked Fang Jin indifferently.

"A little," Jiang Hao said.

After that, Jiang Hao led them on a tour of the garden. He showed them a bit of everything.

Along the way, Jiang Hao stole occasional glances at them. As expected, both of them looked around in disdain. Perhaps they found this place no better than a rural wasteland.

“That’s it?” Fang Jin asked.

Jiang Hao chuckled. “I’m afraid so, fellow disciple.” “I changed my mind. You can call me Senior..”

Chapter 270: Be Careful In Your Next Life, Senior Sister. The Road At Night Is Not Safe

Jiang Hao was taken aback by her words. It seemed that they really looked down on the Heavenly Note Sect.

To them, the heavenly Note Sect was just a tiny sect in the south that wasn’t worth their attention.

Jiang Hao calmly accepted their attitude.

“Nonsense!” said Gu Cheng angrily. “Fellow Disciple Jiang is the one in charge of this Spirit Herb Garden. Although his cultivation might be lower than ours, that doesn’t mean anything! Don’t you understand we have to play ball when in other people’s court, Junior Sister Fang?”

Then, he smiled at Jiang Hao. “Please forgive us, Disciple Jiang. My junior sister doesn’t get out much, so she can be a little bit ignorant.”

Jiang Hao shook his head. “That’s alright. It is my fault for not being hospitable.”

“If there is nothing else, can we go see the Corpse Realm Flower now?” asked Fang Jin. “Lead the way.”

Jiang Hao nodded and led them away. “Please follow me. It’s just a little further.”

After a while, Jiang Hao led them to the Corpse Realm Flower.

There was no one guarding the place. The only person who was supposed to be there was busy with other matters.

As he got closer, Jiang Hao felt his lifeblood and spiritual energy fluctuate. At this moment, a dark red color seemed to fall on the petals.

“You’re just going to leave the Corpse Realm Flower here like this?” Fang Jin looked at Jiang Hao. “Do you know how to do things properly or not?”

“I’m sorry. I’m not in charge of the Corpse Realm Flowers,” he said.

Fang Jin seemed to imply that the flowers belonged to them and the Heavenly Note Sect had done a very bad job of looking after them.

To them, the Heavenly Note Sect was just a tiny, insignificant sect. The larger northern sects were indeed arrogant.

The Blackheaven Sect, the Sunset immortal Sect, and the Wind Lightning Sect didn’t have the confidence to offend the Heavenly Note Sect.

Back then, even if they came to ask for him, he would only be outside the sect and not a disciple.

“Right now, the Corpse Realm Flower is lacking some blood,” said Gu Cheng in explanation.

“Fresh blood?” Jiang Hao asked. “I’ll get someone to immediately prepare some beast blood.”

“Beast blood?” Fang Jin said. “Human blood is the best. Even better if it’s the blood of a cultivator.”

Jiang Hao frowned. “I will have to consult with the seniors on that one.”

“Just use a bit of yours. What is there to consult about? You won’t die. Feed it blood once a day every fourteen days. At most, your lifeblood will lower a little and affect your cultivation. It might make it difficult for you to advance for a year, at most.”

“You’ve done a great service by finding the method to make the flowers bloom. However, it does require blood,” said Fan Jin. “If you’re scared, I can get your master to agree to it. It has to be you.”

Jiang Hao lowered his head. “In that case, I’ll do it willingly. However, I still need to ask for permission.”

“Well... we’ll be free tomorrow anyway. We can teach you the method to do it,” said Fang Jin coldly.

G Cheng had been silent all this while. “Enough!” he said angrily. “Junior Sister Fang, this is the heavenly Note Sect. This isn’t our sect. Be careful with your words.”

After that, the two of them observed the flower for a while and left. They told him that they would visit tomorrow.

They seemed to assume that Jiang Hao would be present to receive them tomorrow. He nodded.

After that, he tended to the spirit herbs in the garden and returned to his courtyard.

That night, Fang Jin went her separate way and observed the Heavenly Note Sect alone.

In her eyes, the Heavenly Sound Sect was just a small and remote sect. What was there to be so careful about?

Not only the teachers but also the disciples were all surprisingly weak. That was enough to show her how weak the sect actually was.

There was nothing to worry about. There was no need to cooperate with such a sect at all. They could just take back the Corpse Realm Flowers!

Suddenly, there was a whoosh. Fang Jin's treasure lit up and protected her.

Bang!

She blocked a spear that had stabbed at her.

"What are you..."

Before she could finish her words, she saw a purple blade flash past her.

She felt her defenses shatter, and the magic treasure on her body disintegrated. Her mind went blank. Her consciousness seemed to have slipped out of her body. She saw her body on the ground, trying to turn around.

Fang Jin found it hard to believe. She saw someone standing behind her.

He held a long silver-white saber in his hand. It looked sharp enough to cut through anything in the world.

When she saw his face, she was stunned.

'The disciple in the Foundation Establishment Realm we met during the day...'

"Senior, what a coincidence! We meet again."

Jiang Hao raised the Primordial Heavenly Blade. He used the second form of the Heavenly Blade: Mountain Suppression.

"If you kill me, you will offend the whole—"

Before she finished speaking, the saber slashed down and suppressed her.

“Be careful in your next life, Senior Sister. The road at night is not safe.” Boom!

Fang Jin’s body shattered. This was her main body! Even if she had a clone, it was difficult to revive her fully. It was only possible to resurrect her through the Corpse Heart.

The Corpse Heart was only possessed by the disciples at the peak of each realm.

Jiang Hao looked at her storage treasure. He hesitated, then decided to leave it.

He had killed a disciple from a large sect. If he took anything from that storage treasure, he might be tracked.

It would be risky if the people from the Divine Corpse Sect targeted him.

Jiang Hao disappeared into the night.

After returning to his residence, he began to make talismans. He needed to earn spirit stones.

The next day, as the sun rose, Jiang Hao collected the bubbles in his courtyard. He then walked out of there.

He heard a commotion and an angry voice. “Investigate this at once! Find out the truth at all costs!”

Jiang Hao was baffled. Did the death of someone from the Divine Corpse Sect have such an impact on the sect?

He wondered if they would use the Heavenly Essence Soul Modeling Mirror in this case. If they did, Jiang Hao wouldn't be able to deceive it. It was a divine item, after all.

Jiang Hao was worried. However, it was strange. When someone from other sects was killed here, the Law Enforcement Hall didn't care so much. This time, they were investigating early in the morning.

Jiang Hao looked around and didn't find anyone from the Law Enforcement Hall.

He had often been investigated by the Law Enforcement Hall, so he knew their procedure. Something seemed wrong.

He dared not to act hastily. Perhaps they were using the Heavenly Essence Soul Modeling Mirror right now!

Killing an important person in the sect had a huge impact. It was no wonder even the Pavilion Master was reluctant to go after Jiang Hao publicly.

He arrived at the Spirit Herb Garden.

After Jiang Hao finished tending to the spirit herbs, he walked around and inspected them.

The beast, Cheng Chou, and Xiao Li walked toward him while having an intense conversation.

"The Divine Corpse Sect insulted our garden recently. Don't bump into them. Keep a low profile," said Cheng Chou.

"Beast, do you have any friends in the Divine Corpse Sect?" asked Xiao Li. "Master, you have to work hard!" said the beast when it saw Jiang Hao

"What? What does that have to do with Senior Brother Jiang?" asked Xiao Li.

Jiang Hao ignored them

It was already noon, but no one from the Law Enforcement Hall came looking for him. The people of the Divine Corpse Sect didn't visit to see the Corpse Realm Flower, either.

On the third day, Liu Xingchen visited him..